Every year when December comes around, it marks the beginning of the most wonderful time of the year, Christmas.

This time of year means several things like Christmas music, eggnog, and old family traditions that bring everyone together to celebrate.

The students of Charlotte Catholic are no strangers to these odd traditions. Many of them celebrate their own customs during the holiday season.

“My family gets together on Christmas Eve and each person is allowed to pick one gift to open,” said senior Katie Thompson.

“My mom and I bake cookies, and watch Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer while building a gingerbread house,” said senior Alex Kaye.

There are also traditions that communities cherish when Christmas comes around. Such as lighting the town Christmas tree or decorating all the houses with bright lights. These traditions bring communities closer and create a family like feel between town members.

Even as children grow and mature well into their teenage years those time honored traditions from their childhood remain an important part of Christmas.

“My parents make us kids wait on the stairs before opening presents until Santa and Mrs. Clause get their coffee and tea,” said senior Megan Giedraitis.

“Every year we leave out milk and cookies for Santa,” said senior Caty Delcasino, “but it’s really not that cute because we always find cookies in a Ziploc bag because my dad can’t eat them all.”

“Every Christmas my sisters and I sit around the fireplace while my dad reads ‘How the Grinch Stole Christmas,’ then we all sit down and watch ‘Elf’ together,” said senior Noah Koch.

“We have gone to McAdenville every year since I was born at Christmas time,” said Kaye.

The holidays are also a great time to celebrate with your closest friends. Junior Kacey Flynn said “every year over Christmas break I invite some of my closest friends over for a bonfire; we all drink hot chocolate by the fire and hang out. It is one of my favorite Christmas traditions because I don’t get to do stuff like that very often.”

A lot of typical Christmas traditions stem from a family’s heritage. Different countries celebrate in many ways and American families have found creative ways to keep those foreign traditions alive.

“We always eat the Italian seven fish dinner on Christmas Eve,” said senior Rachel Sidari.

“We do the German Christmas thing,” said senior Ashton Lozzi, “Santa hides a pickle ornament in the tree and whoever finds it first gets to go on a scavenger hunt to find a big present for the whole family.”

“My family carries on an ancient Japanese Christmas tradition where we wake up promptly at four o’clock in the morning on Christmas and meet. First we must give our blessings to sweet baby Jesus over a bowl of breakfast rice and proceed to open our gifts carefully with chopsticks. If you rip any of the paper then the gift must be thrown away and you have dishonored the family,” said senior Jessie Vandenberg.

Even though most traditions change from culture to culture, there are some the entire world shares. Such as Santa Clause, this is one of the most celebrated customs in the history of the world. Once a year, all around the world, milk and cookies are prepared and kids are put to bed extra early so Saint Nick can creep down the chimney and deliver the long awaited presents.

Most people do not even realize why they celebrate the traditions their family has carried on for years.

“I always get oranges in my stocking,” said senior Jamie VeZolles, “I’m not exactly sure why.”

Traditions are so common in current times that people do not even think about the history behind them. It is almost routine now, and it just would not be Christmas without those wonderful little traditions held dearly in so many hearts.